

# Shearer, 43; youngest P.M. in Commonwealth

At 43, the Hon. Hugh Lawson Shearer is the youngest Prime Minister in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

A distant relative of Sir Alexander Bustamante and of Mr. Norman Manley, leader of the Opposition, he did not start out as a politician.

He joined the Bustamante Industrial Trades Union in 1941 and soon shot up to second position in the union, second only to Sir Alexander, founder and president of the organization. He is virtual leader of the BITU and is widely regarded as one of three foremost trade unionists that Jamaica has produced.

From the early days, when Shearer was still very young, Sir Alexander declared him his "heir apparent" in the union and party.

As Minister of External Affairs and Deputy Chief of Mission for Jamaica at the United Nations, he has been Jamaica's spokesman on foreign affairs.

In his 1962 speech he backed Secretary General U Thant against the Russian proposal of a troika, called for a nuclear test ban by January 1963, proposed that an International Year of Human Rights should be observed in the same way that world scientists observe the year of Quiet Sun; backed the proposal for an international trade conference, declared Jamaica's support for the struggle against colonialism and where in the world, and declared Jamaica's support for the struggle against colonialism anywhere in the world, and declared opposition to the South African policy of Apartheid.

Born at Martha Brae in the parish of Trelawny on May 18, 1923, he was educated at Falmouth primary school where he won the Trelawny Parish Scholarship in 1936, taking him to St. Simon's College, in Kingston. He is a Baptist.

He joined the editorial staff the B.I.T.U. in 1941. He was

of The Jamaica Worker and the B.I.T.U. in 1941. He was elected a Councillor of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation in 1947. In 1948 he was awarded a Colonial Development and Welfare trade union scholarship course in Barbados.

Elected to the House of Representatives for Western Kingston in 1955, he was defeated in 1959. After his election defeat, Sir Alexander, then the Leader of the Opposition, appointed him a member of the Legislative Council.

A Senator since 1962, he was made Minister Without Portfolio and Leader of Government Business in the Senate.

At the General Election to the House of Representatives on February 21, he won the seat for Southern Clarendon (which Sir Alexander had represented). He was appointed Minister of External Affairs in the Sangster's Government.

Married 1947 (since separated), two daughters, one son.